

Western Kentucky University TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

1-1-2007

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records

Recommended Citation

WKU Veterans Upward Bound, "UA35/8 The Topper" (2007). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 1410.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/1410

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

THE TOPPER

WINTER 2007

Volume 13 Issue 2

Student Success Center a Valuable Asset

By Dr. David Coffey

Dr. Coffey is the Director of the Educational Enhancement Programs, which includes VUB and all the other TRIO programs.

In January, the Student Success Center (SSC) became reality on the WKU Campus. Located directly across from Diddle arena as part of DUC, the SSC houses three different units: Student Disability Services, Academic Advising and Retention and Career Services. If you will only take advantage of the services provided by this SSC, VUB students will find valuable assets to successful degree completion and career transition.

If you are physically or learning disabled, contact the Disability Services area on the lower floor. Students with proper documentation are provided interpreter, captioning, note taker services; books on CD, special tutoring and extended testing time.



The phone number is 745-5004. Career Services (located on the same floor) offers a current list of employer needs, internship information and career aptitude testing. Excellent workshops on resume' building and interviewing are offered also. Call 745-3095 for information about Career Services.

The Academic Advising and Retention Center is located on the upper floor and offers a variety of services. Services that may be of interest to VUB students include tutoring in specialized subjects, workshops on studying and note taking, and a great hideaway for studying in the Learning Center. VUB students who have already accumulated many hours and are frustrated by how much more specialized coursework is needed to graduate with a specific major might want to investigate the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS). The BIS is administered through the Academic Advising and Retention Center. Call 745-5065 for more info on these areas.

2007 VUB Scholarship Information

Students who will be attending school in the fall can apply for financial help thanks to two scholarships offered through the WKU VUB program.

In addition to our regular \$300 scholarship funded thanks to donations from the **American Legion** and **VFW**, a

new \$400 scholarship is available this year thanks to gift from **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**, Cumberland Trace Chapter.

Application forms now available in classroom or from staff. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 2.

Support Spotlight: Sherry Reid

Eleven years ago, Mrs. Sherry Reid began teaching part-time as an evening instructor here at Veterans Upward Bound. A year later, Mrs. Reid left VUB for a full-time job as the Academic Support Division Chair at the Bowling Green Community College. Today, she is the Community College's Dean.

Reid, who came to Bowling Green by way of Nebraska, started as the interim Dean at the community college in January 2002, and since then she has finished all of her doctoral work except for her dissertation. She was appointed as permanent Dean on July 1, 2006.

Unfortunately for the community college students, she no longer teaches classes, at least not until her dissertation is

(Continued on page 3: Student Spotlight)



Sherry Reid, Dean of the Bowling Green Community College, standing outside the Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center

Financial Aid, VUB Alumnus Returns as New Instructor
Director's Desk, News and Notes
Important Numbers and Dates

page 3
page 3
page 4

Financial Aid Time Again

Navigating the financial aid highway can seem scary, but as long as you have a roadmap it's not as hard as you think. One key to making everything go smoothly is applying for federal student aid early. Here are the steps as outlined in "The Guide to Federal Student Aid."

Step 1. Get a PIN, a personal identification number. A PIN lets you apply, "sign" your online FAFSA, make corrections to your application information, and more — all online. Go to www.pin.ed.gov.

Step 2. Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income). A full list of what you need is at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Tax return not completed at the time you apply? Estimate the tax information, apply, and correct the information later.

Step 3. Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) between Jan. 1, 2006, and July 2, 2007 (no exceptions to either date!). BUT, apply as soon as possible after Jan. 1 to meet school and state aid deadlines. Apply online (the faster and easier way) by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Step 4. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) — the result of your FAFSA application. If necessary, make changes or corrections and resubmit your SAR for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Step 5. If you are selected for verification, your school's financial aid office will ask you to submit tax returns and other documents, as appropriate. Be sure to meet the school's deadline, or you will not be able to get federal financial aid.

Step 6. Whether you're selected for verification or not, make sure the financial aid office at the school has all the information needed to determine your eligibility.

Step 7. All Students: Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered. First time Applicants: Review award letters from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

NOTE: You also might be able to get financial aid from your state government, your school or a private scholarship. Research nonfederal aid early.... Be sure to meet all application deadlines!

VUB Alumnus Returns as New Instructor

By David Angle

On November 13, 1998, I started in the Veterans Upward Bound program to prepare for college. I was 47 years old and had not been in an academic environment since graduating high school in 1969. I had been out of the military since 1986 and, except for a 10-year run with one company, I had been bouncing from dead-end job to dead-end job. I had finally decided to attempt to turn my life around and to seek a college degree. I was scared to death.

I was so unsure of myself and whether I could succeed in college that I actually left the program for a short period, but later returned. I was intimidated at the prospect of sitting in classrooms with students

young enough to be my children and appearing to them as some kind of old, un-cool baby boomer.

I decided to overcome my fears and just dive in and sink or swim. I started my college education beginning with the spring semester of 2000 and graduated with a 3.8 GPA in the winter of 2004. I'll admit that my first month was nerve-racking as I learned to acclimate to an environment I had long been unaccustomed to. In time though, I began to realize that I had much to offer the students around me from my life experiences and that was reciprocated with the freshness of their youthful exuber-



ance. A number of the professors I had are now good friends and everyone that crossed my path in a meaningful way feel like an extended family.

On November 13, 2006, I started my employment with Veterans Upward Bound as an adult education specialist. Eight years to the day I have come full circle to give back to the program that set me on the path to improve my life and opened for me one of the most challenging and richest experiences of my life: being a non-traditional college student. I have learned that an individual can succeed at any point in their life as long as they have the will and the discipline. The reward is a greater self-esteem coupled with the knowledge that my return as an instructor with VUB is like a homecoming to an honorable calling to serve my brother and sister veterans.

TRiO
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

THE TOPPER is published three times yearly by the *Veterans Upward Bound Project at Western Kentucky University*. VUB is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Fiscal Year 06-07: \$270,759). The opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of either the U.S. Department of Education or Western Kentucky University, and no official endorsement should be inferred.


WESTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

The Director's Desk

Support Spotlight: Continued from page 1)

finished. But as dean, it is her job to make sure the Community College fulfills its mission, which is to provide an open door to students who wish to improve their education. That includes making sure the curriculum and instructional support is available to help students meet their individual goals. What she likes most about being dean is that she works with many divisions of the college, so she does get to see a "big picture" perspective, and she enjoys that she sees students make advancements. In particular, she enjoys when she sees Veterans Upward Bound students succeeding at the Community College.

Removing Barriers

The goal of the Community College is to remove barriers. One way it does that is through the Preston Success Center and Alice Rowe Learning Assistance Center, located right in the Community College building. Open from 7:30am – 6:00pm, the center provides both professional and peer tutors on a walk-in basis, as well as other services for students who need help.

The Bowling Green Community College has an open admissions policy -- no ACT score is required to enter. There is a substantial non-traditional population, so regardless of your age there are likely to be students like you there. It has small class sizes, with a target size of 20 to 30 for a lecture class, as well as its own bookstore and parking lot with plenty of spaces to hold all the students who attend. The Community College is a part of WKU, so students moving from BGCC to the main campus do not have to transfer - they are already official WKU students and have WKU transcripts.

There are many programs available at the Community College which can be completed in two years. There's a



We realize not all students can attend class all the time. With that in mind VUB has a web page where students can go to spend time learning things that will be useful when they go on to school. Topics on this page include:

1. Being A Good Listener
2. Calculating GPA, Managing Stress
3. General Test Taking Strategies
4. Getting the Most from Your Course Syllabus
5. Getting The Most Out Of Your Textbook
6. Helpful Computer Tips
7. Helpful URLs
8. Note Taking In The Classroom SQ3R
9. Other Resources: CDs, Books & Equipment Available for Check-out
10. Staff E-mail



11. Study Skills
12. Study Skills Links
13. Study Skills Tips
14. Suggested Reading Lists
15. Suggested Web Quests
16. Test Taking Strategies for the ACT
17. Time Management Strategies
18. Participant Evaluation of the Veterans Upward Bound Program

Many topics also have a .pdf file you can download if you want to print just that subject.

If you go to <http://www.wku.edu/vub/ed-resources> you will see what I am talking about, or you can reach this page by going through the main VUB web site at <http://www.wku.edu/vub>. Just click on **Educational Resources**.

Notes and News

- Our VA student worker **Kevin Crum** spent the summer as a camp counselor at the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch this summer. This camp was one at which Kevin had spent during his childhood. He was named head counselor, and he's already been chosen to fill that position again next year. For his great contributions to the camp, Kevin was named an Honorary Kentucky Colonel. Congratulations, Kevin!
- Congrats to the following students who start school this spring: **Dominique Riley**, BGCC; **Joanna Jones**, WKU; **Steve Jewell**, Ky-Tech.



Above: VUB Director Randy Wilson presents Carl Potter with the NAVUBPP Scholarship check he won this past summer.

strong nursing program and health-care information systems program. There's also a paralegal program, office systems program, business and computer studies program, and more. Students can also work on general studies courses before continuing on to WKU.

There are many new plans for the

Community College. The building is expanding, as those who have driven down Nashville Road may have noticed. Construction is taking place from the current building all the way to the Nashville Road. The new expansion will allow the Community College to grow and serve the Bowling Green community for years to come.

THE TOPPER



Veterans Upward Bound
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Boulevard, Box 1098
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 398
BOWLING GREEN, KY
42101

CAMPUS MAIL

~~Sue Lynn Stone~~
University Archives
~~Helm Library~~

Important Numbers and Dates

<p>Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green (270) 746-7425</p> <p>Stephanie Gabbard, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office (270) 846-2092</p> <p>VA Regional Office, Louisville (800) 827-1000</p> <p>VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN (615) 695-6372</p> <p>VA Medical Center, Louisville (502) 895-3401</p> <p>VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN (615) 327-4751</p> <p>Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville (502) 595-4447</p> <p>Military Records Branch, Frankfort (502) 564-4883</p> <p>Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore (800) 928-4838</p> <p>AMVETS, Louisville (502) 582-5594</p> <p>Disabled American Veterans, Louisville (800) 333-1720</p> <p>Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louisville (502) 582-6445</p> <p>Military Order of the Purple Heart, Louisville (502) 582-6926</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Feb 19</td><td>Presidents' Day</td></tr> <tr> <td>March 9*</td><td>Registration Postmark Deadline for April 14 ACT Test Date</td></tr> <tr> <td>March 11</td><td>Daylight Savings Time Begins</td></tr> <tr> <td>April 14*</td><td>ACT Test Date</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 3</td><td>VUB Spring Classes End</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 4*</td><td>Registration Postmark Deadline for June 9 ACT Test Date</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 4</td><td>VUB Awards Banquet</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 19</td><td>Armed Forces Day</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 28</td><td>Memorial Day — VUB Offices Closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 29</td><td>VUB Summer Classes Begin</td></tr> </table> <p><small>*Please call early for information on test dates. VUB may pay testing fees, but to do so we must have your application at least six weeks prior to the registration postmark deadline.</small></p>	Feb 19	Presidents' Day	March 9*	Registration Postmark Deadline for April 14 ACT Test Date	March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins	April 14*	ACT Test Date	May 3	VUB Spring Classes End	May 4*	Registration Postmark Deadline for June 9 ACT Test Date	May 4	VUB Awards Banquet	May 19	Armed Forces Day	May 28	Memorial Day — VUB Offices Closed	May 29	VUB Summer Classes Begin
Feb 19	Presidents' Day																				
March 9*	Registration Postmark Deadline for April 14 ACT Test Date																				
March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins																				
April 14*	ACT Test Date																				
May 3	VUB Spring Classes End																				
May 4*	Registration Postmark Deadline for June 9 ACT Test Date																				
May 4	VUB Awards Banquet																				
May 19	Armed Forces Day																				
May 28	Memorial Day — VUB Offices Closed																				
May 29	VUB Summer Classes Begin																				